GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1633
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
SANKHAVAHINI PROJECT .
KANTI SINGH;NIVEDITA MANE;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to close down `Sankhavahini Project` initiated to establish a high speed data network in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of amount spent so far by the Government against the estimated cost of the project;

(d) whether any alternative project is contemplated in its place; and

(e) if so, the detail thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sankhya Vahini India Ltd. was proposed Joint Venture with IUNet, a wholly ownedsubsidiary of Carnegie Mellon University(CMU), USA. The CMU decided to opt out of Joint Venture citing delay in the launch of the Project and the pending Public Interest Litigation in Delhi High Court as reasons.

(c) The Project did not take off. Hence no expenditure on the project has been incurred.

(d) & (e): The Government will proceed with its original plan of providing bandwidth through Sanchar Sagar Projects.Phase-I and Phase-II of Sanchar Sagar Project will be followed byinduction of Dense Wave Division Multiplexing systems (DWDM) to cater to higher bandwidth requirements. Sanchar Sagar Phase-I has been completed covering 33 cities and Phase-II willcover 150 additional cities. In addition, Private Sector Companies as wellas some PSUs are also executing Optical Fibre links for providing bandwidth in the country.